GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5123
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
IMPACT OF ECONOMIC REFORMS
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether some trade unions are against recently introduced `Second Generation` economic reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of theGovernment thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) & (b): The Trade Unions have from time to time observed strikes/bandhs and launched protests and demonstrations against the initiatives proposed to be taken by the Government to usher a `Second Generation` of economic reforms as well as implementation of the existing policy of dis-investment and privatisation. Some of the recent protests in this regard include Nation-wide two hour tool down strike on 16.4.2001, Maharashtra Bandh on 25.4.2001, Nation-wide strike by the Confederation of Central Government Employees and workers and All India State Government Employees Federation on 25.7.2001 and demonstration of theJoint ACtion Committee of nine Central Trade Unions and Federation/ Association of Delhi State on 24.7.2001.

(c) & (d): The Government is of the view that the gains from economic reforms initiated in the early nineties need to be carried forward and re informed through new policy initiatives. The Government is also fully conscious of the need to protect the interest of workers during the reforms process. The steps taken by the Government recently to protect the interest of workers include raising of the wage ceiling unit under EPF and M.P.Act, expansion of the ESI scheme in new areas, enhancement of the minimum amount of compensation payable under the Workmen Compensation Act, etc. A new scheme entitled `Ashraya Bima Yojana` has been announced for extending security cover to organised labour force affected by the on-going reforms. In addition to these measures, the Second National Labour Commission has been constituted to suggest rationalisation of labour laws in theorganised sector and an umbrella legislation for the unorganised sector.